

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended). A stabilized earth structure comprising:

a fill,

a facing along a front face of the structure,

~~main reinforcements~~ stabilizing strips ~~disconnected from the facing and~~
extending through a reinforced stabilized zone of the fill situated behind ~~a front face of~~
~~the structure, and a facing placed along said front face~~ facing, ~~wherein the main~~
~~reinforcements are disconnected from the facing, the structure further comprising~~

secondary ~~elements~~ members connected to the facing and extending in a zone of
the fill which has, with said reinforced stabilized zone, a common part where loads are
transmitted between the main ~~reinforcements~~ stabilizing strips and the secondary
~~elements~~ members by only the material of the fill.

2. (Currently Amended). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the secondary
~~elements~~ members extend into the fill up to a distance substantially shorter than the
main ~~reinforcements~~ stabilizing strips, with respect to the front face.

3. (Currently Amended). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing
comprises prefabricated elements in which the secondary ~~elements~~ members are partly
embedded.

4. (Currently Amended). A structure according to Claim 3, wherein the
prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary ~~elements~~ members
comprise flexible synthetic ~~reinforcing~~ stabilizing members each having at least one
part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.

5. (Currently Amended). A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing
comprises prefabricated elements each having at least one projecting portion forming
one of the secondary ~~elements~~ members.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended). A method for building a stabilized earth structure,
comprising the steps of:

positioning a facing along a front face of the structure delimiting a volume to be filled,

placing main ~~reinforcements~~ stabilizing strips in a first zone of said volume, wherein the main stabilizing strips are not permanently connected to the facing and extend through the first zone,

placing secondary members connected to the facing in a second zone of said volume, said first and second zones having a part in common, and

introducing fill material into said volume and compacting the fill material, ~~wherein the main reinforcements are not permanently connected to the facing, and wherein secondary elements, connected to the facing, are installed in a zone of the volume to be filled which has a part in common with the zone in which the main reinforcements are placed, so that~~ whereby once the fill material has been introduced and compacted, loads are transmitted between the main ~~reinforcements~~ sta bilizing strips and the secondary ~~elements~~ members by only the fill material situated in said common part.

8. (Currently Amended). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the secondary ~~elements~~ members are installed up to a distance substantially shorter than the main ~~reinforcements~~ stabilizing strips with respect to the front face.

9. (Currently Amended). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements incorporating secondary ~~elements~~ members.

10. (Currently Amended). A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary ~~elements~~ members comprise synthetic flexible ~~reinforeing~~ stabilizing members each having at least one part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.

11. (New). A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least some of the prefabricated elements have at least one projecting portion forming one of the secondary elements.

12. (New). A method according to Claim 10, wherein the cast part of said flexible synthetic stabilizing member follows a loop within said one of the prefabricated

elements, so that said flexible synthetic stabilizing member has two sections projecting into the second zone of the fill.

13. (New). The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the step of placing the main stabilizing strips comprises arranging the main stabilizing strips along zigzag paths in the first zone.

14. (New). The method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising the step of determining independently an optimal configuration and density of the main stabilizing strips in said first zone and an optimal configuration and density of the secondary members in said second zone.

15. (New). The method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising the step of connecting at least some of the main stabilizing strips to the facing by means of temporary attachments designed to break in the step of introducing and compacting the fill material.

16. (New). The structure as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the cast part of said flexible synthetic stabilizing member follows a loop within said one of the prefabricated elements, so that said flexible synthetic stabilizing member has two sections projecting into the second zone of the fill.

17. (New). The structure as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the flexible synthetic stabilizing members are strip-shaped.

18. (New). The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the main stabilizing strips are arranged along zigzag paths in the first zone.